

Message Text

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION PARIS INFO BERN BONN MADRID ROME BRUSSELS

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REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN

SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT

REFS: A. STATE 227510; B. STATE 233866; C. PARIS 30210

1. LOCHAK CALLED ON SIEVERING (SCI) EVENING 28 NOVEMBER. AFTER DISCUSSING BRIEFLY HIS OTHER TALKS IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING CALLS ON MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, HE ASKED WHETHER U.S. COULD NOT DO SOMETHING TO HELP EUROPEAN UTILITIES (ESPECIALLY EDF), WHICH DID NOT WISH TO BE TIED TO THE FRENCH ENRICHMENT PROCESS. SIEVERING REPLIED THAT BECAUSE OUR 1971 OFFER WAS STILL ON THE TABLE AND WE DID NOT WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICS, IT WAS UP TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

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2. LOCHAK EVENTUALLY SUGGESTED THAT SOMEONE IN CHAR-

BONNEL'S MINISTRY (PROBABLY JEAN COUTURE) MIGHT CALL ON AMBASSADOR IRWIN TO CONFIRM THAT LOCHAK'S REPORTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WERE NOT EXAGGERATED, AND THAT THE U.S. IS INDEED READY TO DISCUSS COOPERATION. SIEVERING REPLIED THAT THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE AND THAT WE WOULD INFORM OUR EMBASSY IN PARIS TO EXPECT SUCH AN APPROACH IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. IF THE FRENCH DO REQUEST SUCH A MEETING, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY'S STATEMENTS STRESS FOLLOWING POINTS (ABSTRACTED FROM REFS A AND B):

A. WE ARE WILLING TO BEGIN PROMPTLY WITH EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF A DIFFUSION PLANT IN EUROPE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF EUROPEAN UTILITIES, AMERICAN INDUSTRY AND THE AEC.

B. WE WISH IT ON THE RECORD THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS ARE AT THE INITIATIVE OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

C. THE PRESENT ENERGY SHORTAGE ADDS URGENCY TO THE INCENTIVES WHICH LED THE USG TO PROPOSE IN 1971 THAT THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION WITH EUROPE IN DIFFUSION TECHNOLOGY BE EXPLORED.

D. IF THE EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS APPEAR TO BE LEADING TOWARD SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS PROJECT, THE AEC WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER POSTPONING FOR A REASONABLE TIME ITS DECEMBER 31, 1973 DEADLINE.

4. WHETHER OR NOT FRENCH REQUEST SUCH A MEETING, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE LOW-KEY APPROACH TO GOF TO ELICIT THEIR INTERPRETATION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF CHARBONNEL STATEMENT (REF C, PARA 2) CONCERNING CONTINUING OPPORTUNITY FOR TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. RUSH

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